

What is claimed is;

1. A method of processing a halftone color image when the halftone color image is to be printed in monochrome, the method characterized by the steps of

5 detecting a predetermined property of a line-like part of the halftone color image, and

processing the line-like part of the halftone color image by a clustered dot dithering technique or a dispersed dot dithering technique according to the predetermined property  
10 of the line-like part.

2. A method as defined in Claim 1 in which the halftone color image is printed in monochrome by a printer which is not higher than 600dpi in resolution.

3. A method as defined in Claim 2 in which the  
15 predetermined property is the thickness of the line-like part so that when the line-like part is of a thickness larger than a threshold value, the part is processed by the clustered dot dithering technique and when the part is of a thickness not larger than the threshold value, the part is processed by the  
20 dispersed dot dithering technique.

4. A method as defined in Claim 3 in which the threshold value is a value corresponding to 4 dots.

5. A method as defined in Claim 2 in which the  
predetermined property includes both the thickness and the  
25 density of the line-like parts so that when the line-like part is of a thickness smaller than a first threshold value and at

the same time of a density higher than a second threshold value,  
the part is processed by the dispersed dot dithering technique  
and otherwise the part is processed by the clustered dot  
dithering technique.

5           6. A method as defined in Claim 2 characterized by being  
carried out by a printer driver.

10           7. A method as defined in Claim 2 in which two series  
of brush patterns are respectively prepared in advance for the  
clustered dot dithering technique and the dispersed dot  
dithering technique, each series of brush patterns being  
prepared according to the density of the line-like part, and  
the clustered dot dithering technique and the dispersed dot  
dithering technique are carried out by the use of the brush  
patterns selected according to the density of the line-like  
15 part.

8. An apparatus for processing a halftone color image  
when the halftone color image is to be printed in monochrome,  
the apparatus characterized by

20           a selecting means which selects a clustered dot dithering  
technique or a dispersed dot dithering technique according to  
a predetermined property of a line-like part of the halftone  
color image, and

25           a processing means which processes the line-like part  
of the halftone color image by the method selected by the  
selecting means.

9. An apparatus as defined in Claim 8 in which the

halftone color image is printed in monochrome by a printer which is not higher than 600dpi in resolution.

10. A recording medium in which a program for carrying out the method defined in Claim 1 is recorded.

5 11. A recording medium as defined in Claim 10 in which the halftone color image is printed in monochrome by a printer which is not higher than 600dpi in resolution.